

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OPR-02 SY-10 SSO-00 AGR-20

TRSE-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 COA-02 NIC-01 RSR-01 OC-06

CCO-00 CU-04 /148 W

----- 103539

P R 181758 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5561

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3313

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: CTP GENERAL STRIKE POSTPONED TO MAY 21

REFERENCE: LIMA 3118

1. APRISTA- DEMOCRATIC CTP EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENING MAY 16 WITH REPORTED 300 DELEGATES PRESENT (WE GUESS LESS) CONFIRMED LEADERS' DECISION CALL ONE- DAY GENERAL STRIKE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST NEW RETIREMENT LAW. STRIKE WAS POSTPONED TO MAY 21 TO ALLOW MORE ORGANIZING TIME DESPITE PROTEST FROM WHITE COLLAR WORKERS (CSEP), WHO HAD ALREADY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED MAY 18 STRIKE. CSEP SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED ITS STRIKE TO COINCIDE WITH CTP' S.

2. SUGAR, MINING, RAIL AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE AFFILI-
ATES, WHICH SOMETIMES REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH CTP
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DECISIONS, REPORTEDLY PLEDGED SUPPORT. AMONG NON-AFFILIATES, INDEPENDENT TEACHERS (SUTEP) WERE EXPECTED DECIDE TO JOIN STRIKE, CGTP BANKWORKERS WILL FIGHT OUT ISSUE AT SPECIAL MEETING TODAY, AND CHIMBOTE FISHERMEN TOMORROW. CTP HAS DELEGATES IN SOUTH TRYING TO PERSUADE DISSIDENT COMMUNIST AREQUIPA FEDERATION AND TOQUEPALA MINERS TO JOIN STRIKE. BANKWORKERS MAY ALSO DECIDE TO BREAK WITH MOSCOW COMMUNIST CGTP AT TODAY'S MEETING IN PROTEST OVER CGTP'S LACK OF SUPPORT FOR BANKWORKERS RECENT ONE-DAY PROTEST STRIKES.

3. GOP- SUPPORTED CTRP, CGTP, PCP (MOSCOW) AND SMALL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CNT HAVE DENOUNCED GENERAL STRIKE AS COUNTER- REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL MANEUVER, AND GOP APPLYING HEAVY PRESSURE INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE TELEPHONE THREAT FROM SUB- CABINET MILITARY OFFICER OF IMMEDIATE ARREST OF LEADERS AND TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT IF CTP GOES THROUGH WITH STRIKE. CTP LEADER TOLD LABATT THAT SECOND TEAM HAS STRIKE ASSIGNMENTS IN EVEN TOP LEADERSHIP ARRESTED PRIOR TO OR DURING STRIKE. PLAN FOR UNAUTHORIZED MARCH/ DEMONSTRATION IN CENTRAL LIMA (REFTEL) IS STILL ON.

4. COMMENT: CTP LEADERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED SOUND COMMITTED TO CONFRONTATION, AND IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK AS THOUGH THEY WILL GO THROUGH WITH STRIKE. WHILE STRIKE WILL NOT PARALYZE COUNTRY, IT SHOULD SERIOUSLY DISRUPT ACTIVITIES ON MONDAY, ESPECIALLY SINCE APRA STUDENTS WILL REPORTEDLY JOIN STRIKE SQUADS IN ROAMING STREETS TO ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE. MAJOR WEAK POINT SEEMS TO BE GOP- PAID VICTOR ALVAREZ' (CTRP AFFILIATE) CONTROL OF MOST LIMA TRANSPORT; THE COLECTIVO DRIVERS WILL STAY OUT ONLY IF CTP CAN MAKE A CREDIBLE THREAT OF DAMAGE TO THEIR PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES. MAJOR UNKNOWNNS AT THIS TIME ARE EXTENT TO WHICH NON- MOSCOW LEFT- RADICALS (INCLUDING STUDENTS) WILL SUPPORT STRIKE AND SEVERITY OF GOP PREVENTIVE OR REACTIVE MEASURES.

BELCHER

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